While Pennsylvania’s poverty and Percentage Uninsured levels are considerably better than National averages\(^1,2\), Cancer mortality is high\(^3\), and many Pennsylvanians in Philadelphia and some rural Counties remain uninsured, and more vulnerable to the economic impact associated with catastrophic illnesses such as Cancer. We will attempt to establish a link between poverty and lack of insurance with Cancer mortality and will isolate areas that could benefit the most from augmented state attention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent in Poverty</th>
<th>Percent Uninsured</th>
<th>Cancer Mortality (per 100,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>189.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>198.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>241.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- With these data, a broad correlation across the Commonwealth between poverty, lack of healthcare and Cancer mortality cannot be established.
- Regional correlations are seen in Philadelphia, the Northern Tier, Southwestern, and Great Lakes regions of the state.
- Philadelphia, with 1.5 million residents has the most present need for assistance.
  - With two top tier Cancer Treatment Centers in the city, focus should be on prevention, diagnostics, and increasing healthcare coverage, not research.
  - Western PA counties in crisis should do the same, but should focus more on improving their research capabilities, thereby improving cancer centers.

Citations:
   \[http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_State/SAIPE_Data/SAIPE_State_County/State_County_2002.htm\]
   \[http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/pasdc/PA_State/SAHIE/sahie00cty.html\]